

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 19 JANUARY - SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

This week's Chapter Letter takes a bit more of a personal turn than normal, for which I hope people will forgive me!

Earlier in the month I graduated from the University of Durham - marking the end of a project that has provided me with stimulation and enjoyment over the last few years, and the satisfaction of having a doctoral thesis interrogated and approved. My studies have taken place against a background of changes that I had not foreseen when I first set out on the project in 2018! The background reading and research began in those halcyon, pre-Covid days well before I thought I would be moving from Louth to Lincoln, and, since moving to Lincoln, the writing up has provided me with a necessary distraction from the varied demands of cathedral life!

With that project now concluded, and the practical demands of duties at the Cathedral becoming more settled with a dean and two residentiary canons in the post, I am looking forward to finding the space to take some time for reflection and refreshment. In 2019, I deferred a planned sabbatical period to 2020 (rather foolishly as it turned out!), and I am grateful that my colleagues within the clergy team and on Chapter are willing to make the space over the coming year for me to take some time away from my regular cathedral duties so that I can benefit from a time of extended study leave. Having focused on the experience of musicians in cathedrals, and how this is shaped by the institutions and history of the places in which they sing, I hope to spend this time of study exploring how this can be seen reflected in different ways in churches of other traditions - looking particularly at the experience of our Episcopal cousins in North America, and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in France and Austria/Germany. To enable this to happen, I will be spending two short periods away from my normal duties during February and June, and a longer period over the summer (which will also provide an opportunity for me to spend some extended time travelling with the family).

In parallel with this, and in the absence of a substantive Chancellor, I will also use the time to reflect on ways in which the Cathedral can develop further its existing relationships with academics and researchers. This builds on conversations that I began last year with the help of Peter Neil, and will hopefully see the Cathedral develop an Institute for Learning and Research as a way to engage with researchers, encourage academic study focusing on the cathedral and its life, and share the fruits of that learning. I hope that, alongside a time of refreshment and continued research, the time away from the day-to-day duties as Precentor will provide time to reflect and prepare for the initial stages of this project. To enable both my sabbatical leave and the work necessary to establish the Institute for Learning and Research, Chapter have agreed that the Cathedral look to appoint a part-time role of Succentor to share the work of organising and delivering the liturgical life of the Cathedral, and this post will be advertised shortly.

NICK BROWN, PRECENTOR

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 19 January
Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist
Isaiah 62.1-5
1 Corinthians 12.1-11
John 2.1-11

Evening Prayer
1 Samuel 3.1-20
Ephesians 4.1-16

Sunday 26 January
Third Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist
Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12.12-31a
Luke 4.14-21

Evening Prayer
Numbers 9.15-end
1 Corinthians 7.17-24

Sunday 2 February
Candlemas

Eucharist
Malachi 3.1-5
Hebrews 2.14-end
Luke 2.22-40

Evening Prayer
Haggai 2.1-9
John 2.18-22

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

Details of services and music can be viewed on the Cathedral's website. Visit: www.lincolncathedral.com/orders-of-service/

Special Services

Sunday 19 January

3.45pm - Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 2 February - The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)

10.30am - Sung Eucharist

3.45pm - Festal Evensong

'After Hours: Gathering at the Table'

Sunday 19 January, 7pm

Join us for an Agapé (a shared, reflective meal) at the Table for the Nation. There will be a short, led reflection before we share in food and conversation. It will be a chance to enjoy each other's company in the beauty of the Cathedral at nighttime. Bring some finger food to share. All welcome.

Stillpoint

This is a time of guided silent prayer to be still and aware of the presence of God. We meet in the Ss Peter and Paul Chapel (Bishop Grosseteste Tomb) from 9am to 9.30am on the following Mondays: **3 February, 3 March, 7 April**

Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Prayer for healing with the laying on of hands and anointing will be offered after Evening Prayer (which begins at 5.30pm) on the first Wednesday of each month: **5 February, 5 March, 2 April**. For further information, speak to Rowena King or Simon Jones.

18 - 25 January: A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an opportunity to join with Christians from around the world, and of all denominations, to reflect on and pray for our unity in Christ. Across Lincoln, various churches will be holding special services each day across the week to which everyone is invited. The services are as follows:

- **Saturday 18 Jan, 11am** - St Nicholas Church, Newport LN1 3DP
- **Monday 20 Jan, 12.30pm** - Friends Meeting House, 1 Park Street, LN1 1UR
- **Tuesday 21 Jan, 12.30pm** - Trinity URC Garmston St, Lincoln LN2 1HZ
- **Wednesday 22 Jan, 6pm** - Vespers at All Saints of Lincolnshire, St Matthias Church Centre, Burton Road, LN1 3TX
- **Thursday 23 Jan, 12noon** - City-Wide Prayer at Lincoln Cathedral and **7.30pm** at Bridge Church
- **Friday 24 Jan, 12noon** - St Mary Magdalene, Bailgate
- **Saturday 25 Jan, 3pm** - St Hugh's, Monks Road

Commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 27 January, 5.30pm

Following the disbandment of the local Council of Christians and Jews group late last year, the Cathedral is privileged to be able to help continue this local marking of this anniversary. All are welcome.

Community

Candlemas Cakes Around The Table for the Nation

Everyone is invited to the Cathedral Community's Cakes around the Table for the Nation after Evensong on Sunday 2 February. So we can plan for catering appropriately, please add your name to the list in the Chapter House after Sunday morning Eucharist or email lcca@lincolncathedral.com. There is no charge but there will be a collection of donations to go to charity. We still need offers of cakes; if you can help please contact us by calling 07970 818152 or emailing theresamoses7@gmail.com

LCCA Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association will take place on Thursday 6 February at 7pm in the Chapter House, where members can vote to confirm the proposed dissolution of LCCA. Full details can be found on the LCCA notice board opposite the vergers' vestry or are available by emailing lcca@lincolncathedral.com. Please note that questions should be submitted in advance by Sunday 2 February.

Confirmation Classes

Each Easter the Cathedral hosts a service of Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. If you have wondered about being Confirmed and/or Baptised and would like to explore this further, do speak to Canon Rowena, as both adult and child confirmation classes will begin in the New Year. These classes are also an opportunity to explore the Christian faith even if you do not wish to be Confirmed at the end of the course. Adult conversations will be based on the "Confirmation Book for Adults" by Sharon Swain.

Thank you from the Vergers

'The Vergers would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts and kind wishes over the Christmas period. Both helped to sustain us through a very busy time and we appreciate your kindness.'

Events

Music Celebration 2025

Sunday 26 January, 3.45pm

The Precentor, The Revd Canon Nick Brown, and Chair of the Music Fund Council, Mr Andrew Clark DL, invite you to evensong and a celebration of the wonderful music of Lincoln Cathedral. The service will include the presentation of Choristership and Choral Scholarship medallions, as well as an opportunity to meet and talk with some of the musicians afterwards over refreshments.

Time by Luxmuralis

Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 February

The dazzling lights and stunning imagery of Luxmuralis will paint the walls of Lincoln Cathedral with their new show titled 'Time'. Take a journey through time, traversing wormholes, venturing inside the intricate workings of clocks, and experiencing a dramatic narrative that spans from the present day to the very beginning of everything.

Bach's St John Passion

Saturday 5 April, 7pm

Tickets for Bach's St John Passion on Saturday 5 April are now on sale. Performed in a concert setting by the Lincoln Cathedral Choir and accompanied by Manchester Baroque, this certainly isn't a show you want to miss.

For more details of forthcoming events and to book your tickets, go to our website at www.lincolncathedral.com/events